

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 041711Z MAR 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 673
INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 2234

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EEC, ACP, AO, ZA, CG
SUBJECT: THE EC, ZAIRE, ZAMBIA, AND ANGOLA

REF: EC BRUSSELS 2190

1. THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED THAT EC COMMISSION COUNCIL AND MEMBER STATE CONSIDERATION OF INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA ARE OFTEN LINKED TO WHAT IS CALLED "EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT" OF ANGOLA. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, OUR EUROPEAN FRIENDS ARE LOOKING THE OTHER WAY AND NOT SEEING THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. TO EXTENT IT IS RECOGNIZED AT ALL, AID FOR ANGOLA OR EVEN MEMBERSHIP IN LOME CONVENTION APPARENTLY IS VIEWED AS USEFUL DEVICE TO LESSEN ANGOLA'S DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS AND CUBANS. THIS FLABBY DRIFT TOWARDS ACCOMODATION IS NEITHER REASSURING NOR EASILY SUBJECT TO REVERSAL AND INDEED, GIVEN SOME ATTITUDES E.G., DANISH, EFFORT TO CONDITION COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA ON WITHDRAWAL OF CUBANS COULD WELL RESULT IN FRUSTRATION OF OUR HOPES FOR ADDED COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA. ON OTHER HAND, SOME OF MEMBER STATES MIGHT STILL DO SOMETHING ON THEIR OWN.

2. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF POLICY OPTIONS. FIRST, WE COULD LEAVE MATTERS ALONE AND LET EUROPEANS SORT THEMSELVES OUT AS BEST THEY CAN. SECONDLY, WE COULD INTERVENE WITH VARIOUS DEGREES OF FIRMNESS WITH OBJECTIVE OF HAVING EUROPEANS HOLD BAIT
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OF LOME ASSOCIATION AND COMMUNITY AID FOR ANGOLA, CONDITION-

ING IT, HOWEVER, ON CUBAN WITHDRAWAL. THIRDLY, WE MIGHT SUGGEST THAT COMMUNITY AID PROGRAM IN ANGOLA BE DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING REAL ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA. ONE WAS TO DO THIS WOULD BE TO CONCENTRATE ON WHATEVER IS NEEDED TO OPEN THE BENGUELA RAILWAY FOR TRAFFIC AGAIN, PLUS ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT. MY OWN PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO START WITH OPTION TWO, MOVING TOWARD THREE IF WE FIND, AS I SUSPECT WE WOULD, THAT A HARD LINE ON ANGOLA WON'T SELL.

3. IN ANY CASE, DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED THAT AFRICAN EXPERTS GROUP OF COMMUNITY WILL MEET IN LUXEMBOURG MARCH 8 AND 9 AND IF WE ARE TO PLAY A HAND, EMBASSY LUXEMBOURG SHOULD BE PROVIDED GUIDANCE TO BE CONVEYED TO GOL PRIOR TO THAT SESSION. I WOULD ALSO PROPOSE TO USE SUCH GUIDANCE WITH SOAMES AND CHEYSSON HERE. HINTON

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